

as silently as nature, but as certainly; producing like it, the germ, the bud, the blade, and finally the hardy tree. Great changes and revolutions in the heart and mind and customs of a nation are so effected, even as the corn and the tobacco grow, silently and steadily, day and night, nature combining to that end ten thousand little operations, which, if seen disconnected with the results, would seem very contemptible to some great men, so called.

In this connection, I feel called on to say, that I have at heart the interests of teachers as much as of any other class; it is the most important calling of all connected with merely temporal matters.

All measures for their improvement will re-act in their favor, enhancing their respectability and insuring an increase of salary, and as a farther means of improvement, I most earnestly recommend the formation of Teachers' Library Associations. Every trade and profession should be learning by experience; but how many teachers in North Carolina have read one single book giving an account of the experience and improvements in their profession in other places? How little interchange of thought is there on this great subject here!

There are a number of good works on the subject of school teaching—and any one of these, even the most indifferent, might be read with great profit by our teachers generally.

They have Teachers' Institutes and Teachers' Societies of various kinds in other States; none of these would suit our peculiar position, for reasons which I could give, but deem it unnecessary to occupy time in discussing here.

The Library Association, on the principle indicated in my report to the Assembly, would be a Society peculiar to us, in many respects—and yet it is founded on the principle on which Teachers' Institutes are founded in other States.